

Message Text

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20

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 SWF-02 IO-14 HEW-08 L-03 H-03 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /208 W

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R 272030Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5354

PASS AGRIC/FAS/STPDIV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GT, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4056

1. AGATT FLEW TO SAN PEDRO SULA THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, IN GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE PLANE CARRYING FUEL FOR RESCUE HELICOPTER IN ORDER TO ASSESS DAMAGE DONE TO SUGARCANE CROP AND LIVESTOCK BY HURRICANE FIFI.

2. IN SAN PEDRO SULA AREA, WHERE SUGARCANE CROP OCCUPIES 10,000 MANZANAS (ONE MANZANA EQUALS 1.727 ACRES), INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN SAID CANE LOSS IS EXPECTED TO BE ONLY 5 PERCENT (500 MANZANAS). MUCH MORE LAND WAS UNDER WATER INITIALLY, BUT 500
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MANZANAS OR FEWER ARE LIKELY TO BE DROWNED OUT. HURRICANE WINDS

MISSED CANE AREA AT SAN PEDRO SULA AND, ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN, AT OTHER TWO MILLS AS WELL, CHOLUTECA AND CHUMBAGUA.

3. AS CONSEQUENCE THIS RELATIVELY SMALL DAMAGE, INDUSTRY PREDICTS RAW SUGAR PRODUCTION WILL RISE TO ONLY 85,000 SHORT TONS IN CURRENT SEASON(AS COMPARED WITH 80,000 TONS 1973-74) INSTEAD OF EARLIER ANTICIPATION OF 95-98,000 TONS.

4. VICE MAYOR OF SAN PEDRO SULA SAID NO WORTHWHILE ESTIMATE YET AVAILABLE OF HEAD OF LIVESTOCK LOST IN SULA VALLEY, BUT SINCE SEVERAL THOUSAND HUMAN BEINGS DIED IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT ANIMAL DEATHS WERE FAR GREATER. IN REFTTEL, SULA VALLEY LIVESTOCK VALUE LOSS WAS ESTIMATED AT \$12 MILLION.
ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISASTER REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM05354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740274-0173
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974098/aaaaagvd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEGUCIGALPA 4056
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HURRICANE FIFI-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE
TAGS: EAGR, GT, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005